The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

The great would not think themselves demigods if the little did not worship them.—Boiste.

WHOLE NO. 1101. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 22, NO. 10.

Relief for Jobless Necessary To Prevent Revolt, McGrady Says

A. F. of L. Representative Tells Senate Committee Government Must Act Quickly to Give Unemployed Bread or Work.

Washington.—The possibility of a revolt among the workers unless the United States does something tangible and quickly to mitigate unemployment distress was stressed by Edward F. McGrady, spokesman for the American Federation of Labor, before the Senate Manufactures Committee in the hearing on Senator Costigan's bill to provide $500,000,000 for Federal jobless relief in the form of advances to States and municipalities. The money would be raised by a bond issue.

Hunger Forces Revolution

Mr. McGrady emphasized the fact that there is serious unrest among all classes of the labring people, and declared that "70 per cent of the time of the meetings of labor organizations is taken up in denouncing those who can but will not give relief."

"If something is not done and starvation is going to continue and perhaps increase," he said, "the doors to revolution are going to be thrown wide open, and the leaders of the country ought to know it.

Bread Is Wanted, Not Budget Balancing

"The administration should know that more than balancing the budget is needed. Bread and butter is needed. We want to get it through work, but if we can't do that we are going to get it anyway."

Labor leaders, Mr. McGrady declared, have lost their patience with the Government's failure to provide relief.

"The unemployment situation is worse than at any time," he said, and issued the warning that next Winter would be more serious than last.

Hunger Causes Jobless Uprisings

"A number of uprisings in industrial cities have been tossed off by saying that they were led by Communists," he continued, "but most of those people know nothing of Communism. What they wanted was bread."

In reply to questioning by Senator Cutting of New Mexico, Mr. McGrady told the Committee that if Congress adjourns without "doing something to provide work," or without providing food until work can be made available, he personally "would do nothing to close the doors of revolt."

"I have been in seventeen States in recent weeks," he continued, "and have addressed tens and tens of thousands of hungry men and women who want to know why this condition is allowed to go on.

"I personally will not come before Congress again to beg for relief. We have come to the end of our patience."

Garment Workers Attack Soviet For Civil Liberty Repression

Philadelphia.—The convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union adopted a resolution criticizing the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for its alleged repression of civil liberties and the jailing or exiling of political opponents. The resolution demanded the "release of all political prisoners in Russian jails or in Russian exile." It was carried by a vote of 111 to 11.

The convention also urged diplomatic recognition of the Soviet Union by the Government of the United States.

A motion to send a delegation of shop workers to Russia to investigate factory and other conditions was rejected.

Tucson Wage Slashers Called by Labor Paper

Tucson, Ariz.—The Southwestern Labor Record, the official organ of the Tucson Central Trades Council, put an effective squelch on the attempt of certain reactionary business groups here to lower the living standards of city and county employes by slashing their wages.

The wage slashers consisted of a committee from the Tucson Taxpayers Association, the Tucson Realty Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Merchants' Association. The lowered living standard proposal was based on the plea of reducing public expenditures.

A representative of the Southwestern Labor Record promptly interviewed a large number of individual merchants, practically all of whom opposed the salary cut and said it would not solve the question. It was evident from these interviews that the pay cutting committee did not represent the business interests in general.

Representatives of city employes claimed they are paid lower salaries than employes of other cities throughout the country receive. It is believed that the city authorities will maintain salary rates at the present figure.

Liberty Safe in Kentucky Coal Fields, Officials Say

London, Ky.—Cleon C. Calvert, attorney for the authorities of Bell and Harlan counties, made a blanket denial that the officials of the two counties had violated the constitutional rights or imperiled the safety of visiting investigators in an answer filed in the Federal District Court here to the petition for an injunction by the American Civil Liberties Union. The union wishes to send a delegation, headed by Arthur Garfield Hays and Dudley Field Malone, New York attorneys, to the Southeastern coal fields.

The defendants represented by Calvert included Walter B. Smith, county attorney of Bell County, leader of the "border patrol" which headed off a delegation of Eastern college students some weeks ago.

20 Per Cent Wage Reduction Vetoed by Wyoming Miners

Cheyenne, Wyo.—Representatives of District 22, United Mine Workers of America, refused to accept a 20 per cent wage reduction in all wage scales and mining rates demanded by the operators. The miners proposed a 10 per cent reduction, the other terms of the existing agreement to remain unchanged, with the proviso that the cut be submitted for the ratification of the membership. The operators refused to consider this proposition, and the meeting adjourned with no arrangements for future conferences. The present agreement expires June 1.

Home Labor and Prevailing Wage Demanded on City Work

Fort Worth, Texas.—The Fort Worth Trades Assembly initiated a movement to have the City Council give effect to the provision in the city charter which prescribes that home labor shall be employed on all work in which the city has an interest and that "standard" wages must be paid.

The assembly claims that during the life of the charter but few contracts have contained these stipulations, and insists that an ordinance shall now be passed to make the charter provisions mandatory. Organized labor wants the ordinance to use the words "prevailing" wage instead of "standard" wage because the courts have defined the former term while the latter remains indefinite.

INVESTORS' GLEE OVER STEEL'S PAY CUT SCORED

Prof. Luccock Tells Methodist Conference That Wall Street's Joy Indicates Pagan Spirit in Which Profit-Takers Fatten on Human Misery.

Atlantic City, N. J.—Professor Halford E. Luccock of the Yale Divinity School condemned in scathing terms the glee with which investors received the announcement of the 15 per cent pay cut for the employes of the United States Steel Corporation in an address here before the thirty-first quadrennial general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

"Every day that passes," he said, "makes it more clear that there is nothing more futile than sending out to the Orient a religion which is not transforming the pagan forces which are so largely ruling here in America.

"The kind of a pagan world we live in is clearly pictured in the movement of New York Stock Exchange quotations the day after the wage cut was decreed. The headlines of the front page of the New York Times tell the brutal and inhuman story: 'Steel Pay Cut Again; Stocks Rise Rapidly.'

"That is what we call a Christian civilization, a civilization which imagines that prosperity can be increased as human misery increases; in a civilization in which when thousands of men, women, and children are pushed closer to the dizzy edge of starvation, investors send up three cheers and press forward to profit on human misery.

"God save us from perpetuating such an indecent and irrational order of life. The only sure foundation for a civilization which can endure, or which deserves to endure, is the foundation of an abundant life for all men, the foundation of common welfare."

COOPERATION NECESSARY TO RESTORE PROSPERITY

President Hoch of California Labor Federation Says United Front of Consumers, Producers, Bankers and Labor Will Bring Back Good Times.

San Francisco, Calif.—Close cooperation between labor, consumers, producers and financial institutions was stressed as necessary for the restoration of prosperity by A. W. Hoch, president of the California State Federation of Labor, in a radio address on the subject "Back to Good Times."

Consumers, Mr. Hoch said, should buy all they can afford to and put the rest of their money in the banks, producers must afford maximum employment so that the buying power of the workers will not be further reduced, and financial institutions must adopt a more liberal credit policy.

"We of organized labor," Mr. Hoch concluded, "recognize the necessity of readjusting ourselves to the scientific development of modern industry so that there may be brought about a more equitable distribution of created wealth, thus stabilizing industry and employment.

"If every one does his or her share, the wage earners will have their income restored and will not only have money to spend, but also surplus funds to deposit on the banks. The banks in turn can lend this money, creating more business and more employment—and so, through confidence and cooperation, we can all achieve our desire to get back to good times."

Canadian Government Plans Public Ownership of Radio

Ottawa, Can.—Government ownership and operation of the radio will soon become a fact. This was revealed by the outline of the plan in the report of the House of Commons Committee on Radio.

The Government will operate a chain of high-power stations and a number of low-power stations throughout the Dominion. The stations will be gradually acquired and erected until all Canada is covered. Advertising will be limited to not more than 5 per cent of each program. All revenues from license fees and advertising will be expended in the interests of radio. The system will be administered by a Federal Commission of three, with assistant commissioners for each province.

New York.—Frank Mason, vice president of the National Broadcasting Company, said he doubted if Government ownership of the radio would be practical in the United States. He was skeptical about the ability of a government to successfully operate a radio system by selling time on the air and renting its facilities to advertisers.

Mrs. Hilda G. Claessens, New York Socialist Leader, Dies

New York.—Mrs. Hilda G. Claessens, socialist speaker and wife of August Claessens, former member of the New York State Legislature, died here of cancer after an illness of seven months. She was born in Russia 42 years ago and came to this country as a child. She became a worker in a neckwear factory and later helped to organize the Neckwear Workers' Union.

6-Hour Day and Job Insurance Urged by Kern County Labor

Fresno, Calif.—S. K. White, editor of the Kern County Union Labor Journal, and C. H. Rohrer, business representative of the Kern County Building Trades Council, represented the Kern County Labor Council at the hearing held here by the State Unemployment Commission.

Mr. Rohrer addressed the Commission at length on the necessity of the six-hour day as the only immediate relief for unemployment in sight. He pointed out that with modern machinery labor on the 35-hour week can produce all our requirements and emphasized the fact that its application would absorb a very large number of the jobless.

Mr. White recommended the establishment of State unemployment insurance. The plan, he said, should be compulsory and include all types of labor. The contributions should be pooled, and the cost should not be borne by the worker, but should be financed as far as possible by excess profits and income and inheritance taxes. He declared that private fee-charging employment agencies should be replaced by State employment agencies.

Prevailing Wage Ignored On Uniontown Post Office

Uniontown, Pa.—The Uniontown Trades and Labor Council charged that the Uniontown post office was being built by imported workers and that the prevailing wage rate was not being paid in accordance with the Federal law. Affidavits and other legal documents covering the charges were filed with Miss Emmiline Pitt, U. S. Department of Labor representative at Pittsburgh.

Uniontown labor believes that inasmuch as the post office project was originally designed to relieve unemployment in this district, local labor should be hired and the wage rate prevailing in the community paid. The contract for the post office was let by the U. S. Treasury Department.

State Pays Idle Food, Clothing, And Shelter for Public Work

Sacramento, Calif.—S. R. Black of the California Department of Natural Resources reported to Governor Rolph that the State labor camps operated last winter were successful and recommended their continuance next winter at a cost of $500,000. The camps provided food and shelter for around 3,000 men in return for labor on firebreaks and roads.

The per capita cost averaged 50 cents, covering food, shelter, clothing, tobacco, transportation while working and overhead charges except salaries of regular yearly employes. Black said the men wound up their winter's work in good condition physically and mentally.

TEXAS CURRENT WAGE LAW IN U. S. COURT

Contractors Secure Injunction from Federal Judge McMillan Restraining Commissioner Gragg from Enforcing the Statute—Governor and Attorney General Support the Law.

Austin, Tex.—The low-wage contractors on six State university building projects here threw the last card in their attempt to impose debased living standards on labor by persuading Federal Judge Robert J. McMillan of San Antonio to issue an injunction restraining Robert B. Gragg, State Commissioner of Labor Statistics, and Bryan Blalock, county attorney of Travis County, from filing or prosecuting complaints against the contractors for paying wages lower than the current scale promulgated by Mr. Gragg.

Judge McMillan granted the injunction on the claim by attorneys for the contractors that the Texas current wage rate law is unconstitutional. The law prescribes that contractors on public works shall pay the current wage rate. It was announced that the case would be tried in San Antonio before a three-judge court.

Hearing on Current Wage Rates

The contractors' application for the injunction followed Commissioner Gragg's findings regarding the current wage rates per hour for laborers, workmen and mechanics engaged in constructing, repairing or improving buildings, bridges, etc., in Austin and vicinity. His report was made after a thorough investigation which concluded with a public hearing in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol.

Persons who testified at the hearing included all general contractors operating in Austin, the city manager, many union and nonunion workers, union officials and representatives, and other citizens. Fifty-two witnesses gave information on wage matters, and employers and employes testified as to what wages they were paying or receiving as the case might be.

Low Wages Paid by Contractors

The evidence substantiated the claim of the trade unions that prevailing wage rates in Austin are considerably higher than the rates paid by certain contractors on University construction work. It was developed that the greatest disparity exists in the wages for carpenters and laborers. For carpenters the contractors' rate was $5 for an eight-hour day, while the prevailing rate is $7. The contractors' rate for common labor was found not to exceed 25 cents per hour, with a rate considerably less in some instances, while the prevailing pay for this class of work is more than 30 cents, some employers paying as high as 37½ cents. The city manager of Austin testified the city pays laborers $3 for an eight-hour day.

Gragg's Current Wage Schedule

After considering all of the evidence, Commissioner Gragg reported the following as the minimum current wage paid to different classes of workers in Austin:

Asbestos workers, $1; bricklayers, $1.12½; carpenters, 87½ cents; cement finishers, $1; electricians, $1.18¾; elevator constructors, $1.25; granite cutters, $1; engineers, hoisting, $1; engineers, excavating, $1; iron workers, structural, $1; iron workers, rods, 87½ cents; lathers, $1.25; marble workers, $1.50; painters, $1; plasterers, $1; plumbers, $1; roofers composition, $1; roofers, slate and tile, $1; sheet metal workers, $1; steamfitters, $1; stone cutters, $1.12½; stone masons, $1.12½; tile layers, $1.50; truck drivers, 62½ cents; laborers, 31¼ cents.

In explaining the schedule, Mr. Gragg said:

"This finding is not to be considered as an effort to establish wage rates, but rather as a determination, based upon adequate evidence, of what constitutes the current wage rates now in existence, as a basis for administering the law."

Attorney General Supports Gragg

Although Commissioner Gragg was certain of his authority to determine and enforce the current wage rate, he requested the Attorney General to interpret the State law requiring the payment of the current rate on all public work. The Attorney General ruled that the payment by contractors or other employers of a lesser amount than the current wage rate, once determined, is a clear violation of the law.

Governor Sterling Wants Law Enforced

Commissioner Gragg also conferred with Governor Sterling, who gave his unequivocal approval of the Commissioner's proposed action.

Mr. Gragg announced that in case the injunction is dissolved he will prosecute the contractors and seek penalties for all failures to meet the current wage scale. He said, however, that workmen will have no means of recovering the difference between wages already paid and the prevailing rate.

Militarism in Schools Scored; City Garbage Collection Asked

Bakersfield, Calif.—The Kern County Labor Council unanimously endorsed a resolution calling on the City Council to take over the collection of garbage and rubbish and not to contract the service to any individual or company. The Labor Council claims the wages paid and the working conditions imposed by the contractor are a disgrace to the community and insists that city operation would result in profits which could be used to keep down taxation.

The Labor Council also called on the trustees of the Kern county high school not to put military training in the schools either on a voluntary or a compulsory basis. The resolution specifically condemned a proposed voluntary cadet corps as essentially militaristic.

St. Louis Street Railway Men Reject 10 Per Cent Wage Cut

St. Louis, Mo.—The union conductors, motormen and shopmen employed by the Public Service company which operates the street railway transportation system here rejected the 10 per cent wage cut proposed by the officials of the company. The men had a 10 per cent cut forced on them last October by the decision of an arbitration board which decided in favor of the company.

The October cut reduced the men's average annual earnings from $1,650 to $1,485. The new cut would slice the average income down to $1,337. Union officials predicted a strike in case the company tried to enforce its demand.

Army Officer Unearths 2,000 Communists in Charlotte, N. C.

Raleigh, N. C.—Maj. P. C. Riley of Fort Bragg, a member of the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army, declared at the weekly luncheon of the Rotary Club that there are 2,000 Communists in Charlotte, N. C., and claimed the strength of the Communist organizations is increasing throughout the United States.

Charlotte is the center of a large cotton mill section where the mill owners pay notoriously low wages and impose the stretch-out system of labor exploitation to such an extent that a number of strikes have taken place in protest against both the low wages and the stretch-out.

Fox Arizona Theatres Charged With Breaking Union Contract

Tucson, Ariz.—The managers of the Fox West Coast Theatres in Bisbee, Douglas and Nogales, Ariz., posted notices that only one motion picture operator would be allowed in the booth. The management said the measure was taken to reduce operating costs. The contract with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Operators of the United States and Canada calls for two operators. Union officials declared the notice was in violation of the contract and would be fought. The Tucson Central Trades Council decided to back the motion picture operators.

PUBLIC WORKS URGED TO REVIVE BUSINESS

New York Industrial Commissioner Says Huge Government Projects Are Necessary to Make Jobs for Idle and Create Mass Purchasing Power.

Albany, N. Y.—Government projects on a comprehensive scale are absolutely necessary in the present emergency to provide work for millions of the jobless and thus stimulate the revival of industry, Frances Perkins, State Industrial Commissioner, declared in making public the monthly report of the State Labor Department on employment conditions.

"The present emergency in the United States is more serious than war and affects more people adversely than did the war," Miss Perkins said. "It demands the same kind of emergency treatment of finance and production.

"Government enterprise should be invoked at this time to start production artificially. Production might be managed by subsidies or long-term loans for socially desirable projects, so managed as to put a maximum number of people to work and so create a reservoir of normal purchasing power.

"It is the creation of normal purchasing power which is the most essential thing at the moment in making the market for production. I suggest such things as slum clearances and rural electrification as obviously desirable projects."

The report made public by Miss Perkins on employment conditions was based on returns from more than 1,500 representative factories throughout the State. These plants had laid off 402,000 workers since 1929, leaving 704,000 at work. Reporting factories in New York City had 383,000 employed and 182,000 out of jobs. During the last month there was a decline of 3.6 per cent in factory employment. Miss Perkins pointed out that unemployment in the "white collar" trades usually follows conditions in industrial plants.

OREGON LABOR OPPOSES CONVICTS ON PUBLIC WORK

Unions Condemn Board of Control's Policy of Providing Prison Labor for Contractors on State Power Plant and Demand Employment of Free Labor.

Salem, Oreg.—Despite public sentiment against the use of convict labor on public works, the Oregon State Board of Control is wedded to that policy.

In the specifications to bidders for the erection of a light and power plant to be operated by the State here for the use of various State institutions the State Board of Control said the State will furnish convict labor to contractors to be used in the construction of the plant and that convict labor will be used to operate the plant.

Representatives of the Oregon State Federation of Labor and the Salem Central Labor Council protested to the Board of Control against its action and insisted that free labor be substituted for convict labor.

Portland, Oreg.—The Central Labor Union of Portland adopted a strong resolution against the action of the State Board of Control in its proposal to use convict labor in the construction and operation of the State light and power plant at Salem. The resolution declared that with many citizens and taxpayers of Oregon unable to find employment and with many civic agencies endeavoring to find work for them, it was an extremely unwise policy for the State itself to use convicts to do public construction work in competition with free labor.

"The Portland Central Labor Council," the resolution concluded, "protests the action of the State Board of Control and urges that the present bids for the power plant be rejected and that in calling for new bids that a clause be inserted in the specifications that will insure the employment of free labor both in the construction and operation of the plant, and that prevailing wages be paid for the performing of all work in connection therewith."

California Court Hits State-Printed Textbooks

Sacramento, Calif.—The California Supreme Court decided that the State Board of Education is not required to have textbooks used in the public schools printed in the State printing office and may buy them where it chooses. The decision was rendered in connection with the law enacted at the request of organized labor that textbooks be printed in the State plant.

The case came before the supreme court when State officials refused to pay a bill for textbooks ordered by the board of education from an eastern publishing concern.

The board of education recently authorized the State printing office to print 500,000 arithmetic textbooks from plates rented from the publishers for a nominal sum.

Ohio Labor Quizzes Candidates For Next State Legislature

Columbus, Ohio.—Officials of the Ohio State Federation of Labor started a line-up of the position of aspirants for the next General Assembly on labor questions by sending them a questionnaire asking whether they favor the following ten propositions: Prohibiting shipment of prison-made goods from other States into Ohio for sale; creating a State constabulary; establishing an old-age pension system; more liberal compensation to injured workmen and their dependents and exclusion of liability insurance companies in writing workmen's compensation; to include occupational diseases for workmen and dependents in the present workmen's compensation act; a barber's license law; ratification by the General Assembly of the child labor amendment to the U. S. Constitution; an unemployment insurance law; repeal of the Crabbe (prohibition) law.

The State Federation of Labor circulated the questionnaires through the affiliated organizations. When completed, the information will be printed and circulated for the instruction of the voters.

No-Wage-Cut Platform Elects San Diego Municipal Officials

San Diego, Calif.—Every candidate for office in the municipal election here who carried the endorsement of organized labor was elected. The main issue was wage reductions. The Labor candidates declared themselves against wage cuts and in favor of better working conditions. The antilabor candidates favored reductions.

An editorial in the San Diego Labor Leader declares that "the voters have spoken in no uncertain terms and have by their ballots put the stamp of approval upon labor's program for better wages and increased buying power as a solution of the economic problem confronting us."

Jacksonville City Council Adopts Prevailing Wage Rate

Jacksonville, Fla.—The Jacksonville city council adopted organized labor's demand for clarity relative to the prevailing wage rate by enacting the following ordinance:

"The rate of wages for labor employed by the contractor or subcontractor on work covered by the contract shall be not less than the prevailing rate of wages paid to members of recognized national and international labor organizations of the city of Jacksonville."

The Central Labor Union believes this definition will end controversies as to what determines the prevailing wage rate.

Seattle Daily Times Settles Dispute with Organized Labor

Seattle, Wash.—The Seattle Central Labor Council removed the Seattle Daily Times from the unfair list. The action was brought about by the settlement of the paper's controversy with the Mailers' Union some months ago, which resulted in a lockout of union employes.

$2,300,000,000 JOB RELIEF PLAN IN SENATE

Robinson Proposes Bond Issue to Make Loans to States and Cities for Direct Relief and Public Works.

Washington.—Senator Robinson of Arkansas, the Democratic floor leader, introduced a bill authorizing the issue of Federal bonds amounting to $2,300,000,000 to be loaned to States and municipalities for unemployment relief.

He said that $300,000,000 should be made available for the immediate relief of suffering caused by unemployment and that the remaining $2,000,000,000 should be advanced as construction loans to States and municipalities to be spent upon "self-liquidating and profit-making enterprises such as tunnels, bridges and the destruction of slum districts in great industrial centers."

Senator Robinson also suggested the advisability of the 30-hour week, but did not specify how it could be brought about in view of the wellnigh universal opposition of corporation and other employers to its adoption.

Shortly after Senator Robinson presented his plan, Senator Watson of Indiana, Republican floor leader, told newspaper men he was "unalterably opposed to it."

Green Fears Bill Will Not Pass

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, expressed the fear that the Robinson bill would fail to pass at this session of Congress.

"Introduction of the bill," he said, "shows that Congress is finding out that we were right when we sought passage of the La Follette-Costigan bill.

"I am afraid this is merely a gesture, as it comes at a time when Congress is near the point of adjournment. I am afraid it will not be passed."

Railway Labor Unions Present Arguments for Six-Hour Day

Washington.—Donald E. Richberg, representing the twenty-one standard railway labor organizations comprising the Railway Labor Executives' Association, told the Interstate Commerce Commission the primary purpose of the railroad transportation industry is to provide a livelihood for between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 railway workers, or altogether about 8,000,000 counting their dependents.

Mr. Richberg set out this principle in the hearings held by the Commission on the effect of the six-hour day principle on the operation, service and expenses of the railroads. He declared the same consideration that is given to those who invest their surplus money in the railroads should be given to those "who invest their lives" in that industry.

On the question of jobs, Mr. Richberg said the six-hour day if applied to all classes of rail employes would result in maintaining and improving the standard of living by giving employment to more men at shorter hours rather than the present system of fewer men at the same hours.

Jacob Aronson, general counsel for the New York Central Railroad, tackled the question solely from the viewpoint of railroad expense based on the year 1930. He said the six-hour day would increase the pay rolls of Class I roads by about 25 per cent, which would amount to more than $600,000,000 annually.

Albert Thomas, International Labor Office Director, Dies

Paris, France.—Albert Thomas, director of the International Labor Office of the League of Nations, died here suddenly of heart attack while dining with friends at a popular restaurant.

He was born in Champigny in 1878, and in early life became a disciple of the French Socialist leader, author, and journalist Jean Leon Jaures, who made him editor of the Socialist daily paper, l'Humanite. He was elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 1910, and made himself a political figure of national importance in the field of labor matters.

In the early months of the World War he was selected to speed up the manufacture of munitions, was later made Minister of Munitions, and as a Socialist member of the French Government was sent to Russia in 1917 to persuade Russian Socialists to remain faithful to the war.

He was made director of the International Labor Office when the League of Nations was set up after the war, and held the position until his death.

A year ago he submitted to the International Labor Office a project to combine unemployment relief with European union through the construction of a network of automobile roads covering the Continent and by installing on all European railway cars an automatic coupling system like that of the United States.

20 Per Cent Wage Reduction Rejected by Dallas Bakers

Dallas, Tex.—The Bakers' Union of Dallas offered to write a voluntary ten per cent reduction in wages in its new contract for the coming year. Some of the bakery owners demanded a 20 per cent reduction. The union refused to take this added reduction, and union consumers promptly withdrew their patronage from the reactionary employers who sought to impose an utterly unwarranted lowering of living conditions on the men who make the bread.

Wilkes-Barre Merchants Support Organized Labor

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—The Black Diamond Grocers Association pledged their cooperation and support to the organized labor movement here. The association is composed of independent grocers whose members operate around 200 stores. The association will favor local manufacturers' products wherever possible and give union-made merchandise preference over products of unfair manufacturers.

Unions of Denver Inaugurate City-Wide Union Label Drive

Denver, Colo.—The Denver labor movement decided to make May union label month and launched the most vigorous drive ever seen here to emphasize the necessity of spending union-earned money for union-made products. To add to the enthusiasm the Label League announced an essay contest with prizes on the subject "Why I Should Patronize the Union Label, House Card, and Working Button."

Calgary Officials Reduce Jobless Relief Payments

Calgary, Alberta, Can.—The Calgary city council made wholesale slashes in unemployment relief. Married persons were cut $1.50 per week and married persons without children $2.50 per week. All ablebodied single men except returned ex-service men and all single unemployed girls living at home were struck from the unemployment relief pay roll. The three labor aldermen voted against the slashes.

Gov. Parnell Appoints Unionists On State Government Plan Body

Little Rock, Ark.—Governor Harvey Parnell gave official recognition to organized labor by appointing Commissioner of Labor W. A. Rooksbery and Griffin Smith as members of the committee of five to draft a plan for the reorganization of the State government to be submitted to the people at the next general election. Both appointees are trade unionists. Mr. Rooksbery is a member of organized labor, and Mr. Smith, now practicing law at Marianna, holds an honorary withdrawal card from the Typographical Union.

San Francisco Building Trades Refuse Wage Reduction Proposal

The Building Trades Council of San Francisco refused to recognize the reduced wage scales proclaimed by the Builders' Exchange and declared that the union scales in effect on January 1, 1932, are the recognized scales of the Building Trades Council and will continue throughout the year.

Green Says It Is the Major Duty Of Congress to Provide Jobs

DENVER BISHOP ATTACKS PRESENT ECONOMIC ORDER

Dr. Vehr Visions Revolution Against System Which Produces Millions of Jobless and a Few Ultra-Rich—Gross Urges Union-Management Cooperation.

Denver, Colo.—Rev. Urban J. Vehr, Bishop of Denver, criticized the present economic system for permitting millions to go hungry and a few ultra-rich to control the wealth of the Nation, in an address before the meeting of the Catholic Conference on Industrial Relations here.

Bishop Vehr visioned a revolution unless conditions are changed. "It is time," he said, "for tempered speech and constructive thinking, when the false principles underlying the past must be constructed into a new social order based on justice and charity. The new order must be Communism or the papal program." He stressed his belief that the most pressing need of the moment is to provide relief for the unemployed millions and their families pending the inauguration of an unemployment-prevention program.

Dr. Francis J. Haas, director of the School of Service of the Catholic Welfare Conference, criticized the Federal Government for trying to dodge its responsibility in relieving unemployment distress. He said adequate relief is beyond the power of local communities.

John E. Gross, secretary of the Colorado State Federation of Labor, discussed the industrial relations schemes that employers and their economists have devised to victimize the workers under the guise of substitutes for trade unionism. He exposed the evils of such schemes as the company union and the stabilization plan sponsored by Gerard Swope, president of the General Electric Company. He claimed the union-management plan is the only system of industrial relations which can give the worker the protection he needs and at the same time guard the rights of the public.

Arthur R. Burns, Molders' Union Vice President, Dies

Pekin, Ill.—Arthur R. Burns, second vice president and organizer of the Molders' Union of North America, well known throughout the American labor movement, died here May 5. He became an organizer of the union in 1912, and was elected second vice president in 1923, holding that position until his death.

Mr. Burns was born in 1885 in Petersburg, Ill. He served his apprenticeship as a molder in Denver, joined Local Union No. 188 of that city in 1906, and was its chief officer for a number of years.

After his appointment as organizer in 1912 he spent much of his time on the Pacific Coast. During the World War he represented the Metal Trades of Portland, Oreg., before the Emergency Shipbuilding Corporation and the Shipping Wage Adjustment Board at Washington. He is survived by his widow.

124,358 Destitute in Los Angeles; 16,000 in San Diego

Los Angeles, Calif.—A. C. Price, assistant superintendent of charities of Los Angeles County, told the State Unemployment Commission that 35,581 families are being cared for here, representing approximately 124,358 persons. He said unemployment is responsible for 65 per cent of the distress.

Irving Lipsitch, chairman of the executive council of social agencies in Los Angeles, reported that 12 of the principal units of the community chest were helping 13,232 families with about 46,312 individuals.

San Diego, Calif.—Jerome B. Pendleton, executive secretary of the San Diego County Welfare Commission, informed the State Unemployment Commission that his organization is looking after 4,000 families with 16,000 members, 70 per cent of whom are out of work.

New Zealand Unemployed Protest Against Wage Cut

Wellington, New Zealand.—Discontent with the unemployment situation broke out again in Wellington when 4,000 men who had quit work on city relief projects in protest against a cut in the wage scale paraded with their wives and children to Parliament House to present a protest petition. On their return march a few of the reckless marchers left the procession and smashed a few windows in Willis Street, the main shopping center. Policemen and 100 special constabulary dispersed what the authorities called a "riot" in half an hour without serious casualties on either side.

Int'l Typographical Union Elects Officers on May 25

Indianapolis, Ind.—The members of the International Typographical Union will elect all the union's officials on May 25 by a referendum vote. The referendum method was adopted many years ago and has worked so satisfactorily that there is little agitation for the convention method. Each candidate has the right to publish his views in the Typographical Journal, the official organ of the union, which goes to every member.

Mahoney Elected St. Paul's Mayor; No-Wage-Cut Platform

St. Paul, Minn.—William Mahoney, Labor-Progressive candidate for Mayor of St. Paul, was elected by a vote of 40,467 to 36,405.

In his campaign Mahoney declared against the false economy of salary reductions and insisted that large economies in administration could be effected without debasing the living standards of city employes by shaving their pay envelopes. He promised to use the power of his office to break the grip of the underworld influence over municipal politics and to reduce the indirect tax laid on the people by unfair and inequitable utility corporations.

Three Labor-Progressive candidates were elected to the City Council. This insures labor control of that body.

Mr. Mahoney is the first laborite to serve as St. Paul's chief executive. He is a member of the St. Paul Printing Pressmen's Union and editor of the St. Paul Union Labor Advocate.

Minneapolis Mayor Blocks Banker's Wage Cut Scheme

Minneapolis, Minn.—Mayor William A. Anderson blocked an indirect attempt to reduce the pay of the city employes of Minneapolis by vetoing a resolution adopted by the city council making arbitrary cuts in appropriations for all departments.

This roundabout attempt to reduce living standards was an application of the plan said to have been sponsored by one of the big bankers here that the way to force pay cuts is to slash appropriations to a point that makes it impossible for departments to function unless wages are reduced. The wage cutters in the city council did not have strength enough to override the Mayor's veto.

Private Employment Agencies Victimize Jobless Workers

San Francisco, Calif.—Walter C. Mathewson, State director of the U. S. Employment Service here, urged legislation to curtail private employment agencies and widen the scope of the public employment service in a statement before the California Unemployment Commission. Although he did not make direct charges, Mathewson claimed that many men are given employment through private agencies on construction jobs and are discharged after working seven days or slightly more. He said private agencies do not collect fees unless employment lasts seven days."

A. F. of L. Chief Tells Garment Workers Federal Budget Balancing Is Secondary—Wage Cuts Increase Misery and Retard Business Recovery.

Philadelphia.—Finding jobs for the millions of unemployed and not balancing the budget is the foremost duty of Congress and the Federal Government.

This significant statement was the keynote of the address by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, at the twenty-first convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union here.

Public Works Necessary

He declared that if Congress adjourned without attempting to solve the problem of unemployment, it would have failed "in its duty to the American people."

Urging the immediate inauguration of a large public works program by the Federal Government, he continued:

"Let the budget go if necessary, but put men back at work. We are more concerned with restoring prosperity and giving the nation a chance.

"Congress ought to meet the situation. The people are living without enough on which to subsist."

Wage Cutters Add to Misery

Mr. Green also challenged the position of those corporations and other employers who, he said, evidently feel the way out of the depression is "by slashing wages and setting aside tolerable conditions set up by workers after years of sacrifice."

"All employers have done by this campaign," he continued, "is to aid in the accumulation of misery. I challenge them to show a single case where the reduction of wages has shown a revival of industry. In textiles and other trades, where cuts have been the most drastic, misery has become the greatest. Instead of adding one worker or adding to the profit of any industry, many of these firms are now in bankruptcy."

A. F. of L. Support for Garment Workers

Mr. Green promised the support of the American Federation of Labor to the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in its forthcoming struggle with the cloak manufacturers of New York. Benjamin Schlesinger, head of the union, said the workers are threatened with a lockout of 30,000 cloakmakers when the present contracts expire at the end of May.

LABOR INJUNCTIONS IMPOSE SLAVERY, OLANDER DECLARES

Secretary Illinois Labor Federation Says Injunction Slavery Differs in Form from Chattel Slavery, But Achieves Same Result.

Chicago, Ill.—"The greatest menace in modern life is the ignorance which prevails as to what constitutes slavery," said Victor Olander, secretary of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, in a radio address on "How Labor Rose from Slavery to Freedom."

The address was the second of a series on the general subject "American Labor and the Nation" broadcast over the Columbia system under the auspices of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education with the cooperation of the American Federation of Labor and the Workers Education Bureau of America.

Characteristics of Slavery

"What is it that marks the great difference between the free man and the slave?" he said. "It is this, that the man who is free has the right to refuse to remain in the service of others, to withhold his labor, to consult freely with his fellows, and to join with them in bringing about improved standards of life and labor.

"The slave is a slave because he is prevented by law from leaving the service of those for whom he works without their consent. He is not permitted to consult freely with his associates, and if he joins with others of his kind for the purpose of securing a proper return for his labor, he is guilty of rebellion.

"It matters not whether the legal restrictions are such as to deny the rights of the group, as in the caste system, or whether they are directed at the individual as in chattel slavery. The principle involved is identical in either case and the effect is the same.

Arbitrary Court Orders

"The people of our own country have overlooked that fact since they have permitted to grow up within our borders, partly through judicial usurpation and partly through legislative authority, a system of arbitrary court orders, known as injunctions, the purpose and effect of which is to restrict the very rights that mark the difference, and the only difference, between the free man and the slave, the rights to withhold personal service and to act in combination with others in doing so."

Oregon Business Men Refuse To Sell Unfair Coca-Cola

Portland, Oreg.—Thomas L. Turner, president of the Portland Baseball Club, refused to permit the sale of bottled Coca-Cola on the grounds of the club. The manager of Piggly-Wiggly stores in Oregon also advised all store operators to discontinue the sale of the beverage. The action was taken because Coca-Cola is on the unfair list of organized labor here.

Engineers Equalize Shovelmen's Wage Rates in Northwest States

Portland, Oreg.—The International Union of Operating Engineers announced the adoption of a new scale of wages for power shovel operators in the Northwestern States to apply outside the building trades radius of the larger cities. The scale conforms with the scale in force in the Southwestern district and makes the shovelmen's rate the same in the following States: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, California, and Arizona.

"We believe," says the Oregon Labor Press, the official organ of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, "that this is one of the most progressive moves that has been made towards 'stabilizing' wages for a group of workmen over a large area and removing the confusion caused by many different union scales in the same area, thereby setting employers of union shovelmen on an even footing when bidding for work in the different States."

Max Zuckerman, Secretary Hat Workers' Union, Dies

New York.—Max Zuckerman, prominent in the American labor movement for twenty-eight years as general secretary of the Cloth Hat, Cap, and Millinery Workers' Union, died here May 4, at the age of 64.

Mr. Zuckerman was born in Russia in 1868. His father was a merchant. He received a grammar school education and came to the United States in 1891. He learned the trade of cap making, became an active member of the Cloth Hat, Cap, and Millinery Workers' Union, and was elected its general secretary in 1905, holding the office until his death.

In his capacity as secretary he wrote the biennial reports of the activities of the union, which constitute a history of the workers in that trade for more than a quarter of a century. For nearly thirty years he attended all the conventions of the American Federation of Labor.